

Guidance for Submitting Rules Changes to the NVSL Rules for Diving Competition

1. Formulating a rule change should be connected to a need for improving existing processes that may not be as efficient or effective as the current approach or a problem situation that has been actually observed. If it is a problem situation that is being pursued, it should be fully described in terms of the event that happened that caused the rule change to be proposed, i.e. teams and people involved, dates, times, locations, specific actions at time of occurrence, and specific data if applicable. This should be part of your submission of a specific rule change applicable to a problem situation.
2. The rule change should describe the specific problem that is being fixed and why it is the better way to fix the problem vice other alternatives NVSL can pursue. There should be a discussion of why the proposed rule is a better approach than the current rule, and description of the adverse consequences if the proposed rule is not adopted.
3. The rule change submission should provide the pros and cons of the recommended change in terms of the overall effect on NVSL Diving as a League, not just on your own team, a few teams, or one division. That should include the practicalities and difficulties of implementation and the administration of the change. Weigh the pros and cons and show how the overall merit of adopting the change provides a net benefit for all of NVSL Diving.
4. Recommended changes that benefit only the submitter's team should be avoided. Recommended changes that have been submitted several times in the past to NVSL Diving, and have resulted in clear decisions not to adopt, should not be resubmitted *unless justification is provided by new and compelling factual information or specific circumstances for consideration.*
5. Recommended changes to diving performance and evaluation standards as newly enacted by FINA/USA Diving do not have to be submitted as specific rule changes. The Rules Committee prepares these recommended changes as a separate submission for consideration as a normal course of events.
5. Any recommended rule change should show the actual wording as it will appear in the Handbook if adopted. Use Times Roman 12 font to edit in "line in, line out" format for the actual wording. A facsimile of the editing format is given below:
 - 4.i. In head first dives, the head or hands must contact the water first; otherwise ~~if any part of the body below the waist enters the water before the hands~~, the referee shall declare the dive ~~to be a failed dive~~. In feet first dives, the feet must contact the water first; otherwise ~~if any part of the body above the waist enters the water dive before the feet~~, the referee shall declare the dive ~~to be a failed dive~~.

6. Submit recommended rule changes in a timely fashion by the deadline date published in the current year's NVSL handbook. Any recommended changes returned for rework will not be considered timely filed. Any recommended changes returned for rework and resubmitted after deadline will not be accepted for consideration. Resubmissions will be considered timely filed when notification of acceptance is provided.

Mike Schaeffer, Chair
NVSL Diving Rules Committee

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